(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) There are a total of 795 mining leases as per records of Government of Rajasthan at Makrana and during inspection of these mines, no instance of female and child worker has been found.

Mining Projects in Andhra Pradesh

1443. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the minor and major on-going projects in the mining sector in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the amount invested/to be invested in each project;

(c) whether Government have privatised any mining activities in the State during the last two years;

(d) if so, the details thereof, District wise;

(e) the reasons and objectives for privatization of mining activities in the State; and

(f) whether Government have held talks at the Ministerial level and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) There are 347 mining leases in operation in Andhra Pradesh for manganese ore, ball clay, barites, felspar, kaolin, limestone, mica, quartz, silica sand, steatite etc. Geological Survey of India is carrying out mineral exploration for gold, diamond, barites and other minerals in 14 projects in the state. Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited is conducting exploration for gold in district Kurnool at an estimated cost of Rs. 15.75 million.

(c) to (e) As per the National Mineral Policy, 1993, in order to attract larger investment and state-of-the-art technology in the mining sector, private investment has been allowed in the mining sector. However, as per information given by State Government of Andhra Pradesh, except for Bauxite deposits and Barytes in parts of Kadapa District, other minerals are open for grant of mineral concession.

(f) As per information given by the State Government, the modalities for exploration, mining, development and establishment of mineral based industry in respect of Bauxite, Beach Sand, each., are at various stages of discussion between the State Government and Central Government.